

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY AUGUST 17, 2015

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2015–16 REGULAR SESSION

## Assembly Concurrent Resolution

No. 66

### Introduced by Assembly Member Bonta

(Coauthors: Assembly Members Chang, Chau, Chiu, Chu, Kim, Low, Ting, ~~and Williams~~ Williams, Achadjian, Alejo, Travis Allen, Atkins, Baker, Bigelow, Bloom, Bonilla, Brough, Brown, Campos, Chávez, Cooley, Cooper, Dahle, Daly, Dodd, Eggman, Frazier, Gallagher, Cristina Garcia, Gatto, Gipson, Gomez, Gonzalez, Gordon, Grove, Hadley, Harper, Roger Hernández, Holden, Irwin, Jones, Jones-Sawyer, Lackey, Levine, Linder, Lopez, Maienschein, Mayes, McCarty, Medina, Mullin, Nazarian, Obernolte, O'Donnell, Olsen, Perea, Quirk, Rendon, Ridley-Thomas, Rodriguez, Salas, Santiago, Steinorth, Mark Stone, Thurmond, Wagner, Waldron, Weber, Wilk, and Wood)

(Coauthors: Senators Liu and Pan)

May 11, 2015

---

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 66—Relative to Filipino American History Month.

#### LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 66, as amended, Bonta. Filipino American History Month.

This measure would recognize the month of October 2015 as Filipino American History Month and the 428th anniversary of the first presence of Filipinos in the continental United States.

Fiscal committee: no.

- 1 WHEREAS, Filipinos and Filipino Americans have been
- 2 contributing to California and the United States for hundreds of

1 years, ever since October 18, 1587, when the first “Luzones Indios”  
2 set foot in Morro Bay, California, on board the Nuestra Señora de  
3 Esperanza, a Manila-built galleon ship captained by Pedro de  
4 Unamuno of Spain; and

5 WHEREAS, In the late 1700s and early 1800s, Filipinos helped  
6 Father Junípero Serra establish the California mission system; and

7 WHEREAS, Since the late 1800s, Filipino communities have  
8 existed in southern Louisiana, according to oral histories recorded  
9 by Rhonda Richoux Fox; and

10 WHEREAS, After the Philippines was colonized, Filipinos  
11 began immigrating to San Francisco, where they contributed to  
12 the city both as military personnel and as service sector workers  
13 such as bellhops, dishwashers, servants, and cooks; established,  
14 by the 1920s, a thriving community around Kearny and Jackson  
15 Streets, which became known as “Manilatown”; and settled, during  
16 the post World War II era, into the Fillmore, South of Market, and  
17 Excelsior districts; and

18 WHEREAS, Between 1906 and 1935, the first large wave of  
19 Filipino immigration to the United States began, as Filipinos were  
20 recruited to California, Alaska, and Hawaii to work in the  
21 agricultural industries, canneries, and sugarcane plantations,  
22 respectively; and

23 WHEREAS, The Filipino contract workers in Hawaii, or  
24 “Sakadas,” became the largest group of Asians on the sugarcane  
25 plantations by the 1920s; and

26 WHEREAS, At the turn of the 20th century, Filipino students,  
27 or “pensionados,” farm workers, and laborers in manufacturing  
28 and in the service sector began settling in Stockton and the  
29 surrounding San Joaquin Delta area, where they built a community  
30 that became the largest concentration of Filipinos outside of the  
31 Philippines and established a thriving six-block ethnic  
32 neighborhood that became known as “Little Manila”; and

33 WHEREAS, In 2000, the Stockton City Council designated this  
34 area, in downtown Stockton at the intersection of Lafayette and  
35 El Dorado Streets, as the “Little Manila Historical Site,” the first  
36 designation of this kind in the country; and

37 WHEREAS, In the first decades of the 20th century, thousands  
38 of Filipinos in California worked in agricultural fields throughout  
39 the state, in cities and regions such as the Sacramento-San Joaquin  
40 Delta, the central coast, Imperial Valley, Orange County, the Inland

1 Empire, Delano, Bakersfield, Coachella Valley, and the San  
2 Francisco Bay area, and became a critical element in the growth  
3 and political economy of the state, often enduring harsh labor  
4 conditions and poor wages, but persevering and creating a strong  
5 legacy of mutual support, strikes, and organization for farm labor  
6 unionization; and

7 WHEREAS, In the 1920s, Filipinos in California also worked  
8 as laborers in the shipyards of Vallejo, where they established a  
9 Filipino American community and business center, and became  
10 so successful that there were thousands of Filipinos working as  
11 shipbuilders by the start of World War II; and

12 WHEREAS, During World War II, approximately 200,000  
13 Filipino soldiers battled under the command of the United States  
14 to preserve the liberty of our country and win back the liberty of  
15 the Philippines from the Japanese occupation; and

16 WHEREAS, Thousands of these Filipino soldiers came from  
17 California, served in the First and Second Filipino Infantry  
18 Regiments, underwent training at Salinas and at Fort Ord,  
19 California, and were stationed at Camp Beale near Sacramento  
20 and Camp Cooke near Santa Maria; and

21 WHEREAS, After World War II ended, many Filipinos who  
22 had served in the United States Navy settled in National City and  
23 elsewhere in the County of San Diego, as well as in the Cities of  
24 West Long Beach and Wilmington, where they worked in the Long  
25 Beach shipyards and Terminal Island canneries, served in the  
26 harbor area as nurses and medical workers, and created flourishing  
27 Filipino American communities numbering in the tens of  
28 thousands; and

29 WHEREAS, Between 1941 and 1959, the second wave of  
30 Filipino immigration to the United States began, as nurses, students,  
31 “war brides” and fiancées of World War II military personnel and  
32 veterans, tourists, and Filipino members of the United States Navy  
33 came to the United States; and

34 WHEREAS, In 1965, the third wave of Filipino immigration to  
35 the United States began, as the passing of the Immigration and  
36 Nationality Act abolished “national origins” as the basis for  
37 immigration, allowing for more immigration from Asia and Latin  
38 America and for much-needed Filipino medical professionals to  
39 come to the United States to fill United States labor shortages; and

1 WHEREAS, On September 8, 1965, Filipino American  
2 agricultural labor leaders, including Larry Itliong and Philip Vera  
3 Cruz, organized more than 1,500 farm workers from the  
4 Agricultural Workers Organizing Committee in the Delano Grape  
5 Strike of 1965, in partnership with César Chávez, Dolores Huerta,  
6 and other Mexican American labor leaders of the National Farm  
7 Workers Association, sparking one of the greatest social, economic,  
8 and racial justice movements in the history of California and the  
9 United States, and led to the establishment of the United Farm  
10 Workers of America; and

11 WHEREAS, These agricultural workers, along with other  
12 volunteers, also built Agbayani Village, a retirement facility for  
13 elderly Filipino farmworkers, or “Manongs,” located at Forty Acres  
14 in Delano in the County of Kern; and

15 WHEREAS, In 1968, Filipino student organizers were  
16 instrumental in the leadership of the Third World Liberation Front  
17 that led to the founding of our nation’s first Third World College  
18 at the University of California, Berkeley, and the first College of  
19 Ethnic Studies, at California State University, San Francisco, that  
20 was part of the larger effort to democratize higher education for  
21 all; and

22 WHEREAS, From 1968 to 1977, Filipino American activists  
23 and residents of San Francisco’s International Hotel organized a  
24 popular, multiracial campaign that challenged local authorities and  
25 private development to place people and the public good ahead of  
26 profit, and support affordable housing for Filipino and Chinese  
27 immigrants and community members; and

28 WHEREAS, From 1972 to 1986, Filipino American activists  
29 organized massive educational and political campaigns to restore  
30 civil liberties in the Philippines during the period of martial law  
31 in that country, creating dynamic local responses to international  
32 politics and placing pressure on the United States government to  
33 end its support of the Marcos dictatorship; and

34 WHEREAS, In 1973, the fourth wave of Filipino immigration  
35 to the United States began, as political exiles and refugees from  
36 the Marcos era, intellectuals, tourists, students, student activists,  
37 professionals, semiprofessionals, and families came to the United  
38 States; and

39 WHEREAS, In 2002, the City of Los Angeles, home to over  
40 120,000 Filipinos, designated part of the city as the “Historic

1 Filipinotown” district, the largest designation of this kind in the  
2 country; and

3 WHEREAS, The Filipino Community Center of the Los Angeles  
4 Harbor area in the City of Wilmington continues to serve as a  
5 model organization, facilitating community events such as  
6 weddings, baptisms, pageants, and fiestas; and

7 WHEREAS, On November 8, 2013, Super Typhoon  
8 Haiyan/Yolanda, one of the strongest storms ever recorded in  
9 human history, struck the Philippines and devastated the lives of  
10 millions of people throughout the Philippines and the world; and

11 WHEREAS, Today, numerous other community-based  
12 institutions that take responsibility for the services, advocacy, and  
13 civic engagement needs of the Filipino American community exist  
14 throughout the state; and

15 WHEREAS, The Filipino American population is currently the  
16 largest Asian American and Pacific Islander group in California  
17 and the third largest Asian American and Pacific Islander group  
18 in the United States; and

19 WHEREAS, Nine Filipino Americans have received the  
20 Congressional Medal of Honor, the highest award for valor in  
21 action against an enemy force that can be bestowed upon an  
22 individual serving in the United States Armed Forces; and

23 WHEREAS, Filipino Americans have served the public in a  
24 wide range of capacities, including, but not limited to, Chief Justice  
25 of the California Supreme Court, representatives to the United  
26 States Congress, legislators in the state legislatures of California  
27 and other states, and other city, state, and federal leaders of the  
28 United States; and

29 WHEREAS, Throughout the history of the United States,  
30 Filipino Americans have made cultural, economic, political, social,  
31 and other contributions to our country that have become a vital  
32 part of the rich, diverse, and vibrant tapestry of our nation; and

33 WHEREAS, Since World War II, federal, state, and local  
34 redevelopment projects, freeway and highway construction, urban  
35 decay, private development, demographic shifts, and poor city  
36 planning have destroyed a significant number of Filipino American  
37 historic sites and ethnic neighborhoods, and many of the remaining  
38 Filipino American communities and historic sites are in danger of  
39 being lost; and

1 WHEREAS, Preserving our Filipino communities throughout  
2 California and the United States is critical to the preservation of  
3 Filipino culture, history, traditions, and heritage and to the  
4 preservation of our state and national history as well as our state  
5 and national future; now, therefore, be it  
6 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*  
7 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature recognizes the month of  
8 October 2015 as Filipino American History Month and the 428th  
9 anniversary of the first presence of Filipinos in the continental  
10 United States; and be it further  
11 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies  
12 of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.

O